to Rs. 76.68 crore each have been released to the State Government on 31st July 2007 and 4th February 2008 respectively.

Clemency to convicted persons

2565. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Supreme Court had questioned the right of clemency being granted to certain convicted people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that recently Government of Andhra Pradesh had released 1500 prisoners granting clemency;

(d) if so, whether any compensation to victims of these prisoners was worked out; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) and (b) Orders issued by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh on 7th August, 2007 for considering special remission to the life convicted prisoners and non-life convicted prisoners on the occasion of commemoration of 150 years of First War of Independence were challenged in a Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 100 of 2007 in the Supreme Court. The Honourable Court initially stayed further action by the State Government but later permitted the State Government to continue the process of preparation of prisoners list meeting the parameters laid down in the Government Orders. The Court subsequently vacated the stay granted by it in respect of non-life convicted prisoners but the stay on the life convicted prisoners continues.

(c) According to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, no prisoner has been released.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Reconstruction of damaged infrastructure due to natural disasters

2566. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that CRF/NCCF provisions do not take into account permanent reconstruction, drought proofing and mitigation requirement in infrastructure sectors damaged in natural disasters and the entire burden is to be borne by State Government;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to provide financial assistance to State Governments to rehabilitate and reconstruct the damaged infrastructure; and

(c) whether the Central Government proposes to create a new financing mechanism for the reconstruction of public infrastructure assets damaged in natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) and (b) The present schemes for constitution and administration of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) based on the recommendation of 12th Finance Commission (2005—10) stipulate for providing financial